

Bates makes openings

Maidstone 0 Wycombe 4

WYCOMBE WILL never gain easier points than they did in this Isthmian League game against a poor Maidstone side that lacked even the merit of enthusiasm for hard work.

Without having to raise their game above a gentle trot, the visitors had things all their own way.



Yet in the first 10 minutes Maidstone had at least four good chances, nearly all created by right winger Micky Clay.

Later, the deep-lying Paul Bates carved out Wycombe openings that Keith Samuels (10min. and 30min.) neatly rounded off with headers. Tony Horseman made it 3-0 just on the interval.

Horseman was presented with another "gift" seven minutes after the break, with Maidstone's defence torn to shreds.

Wanderers Sub-less After Worley Drops Out At Last Minute

By "CHILTERN"

Maidstone 0, Wycombe Wanderers 4

HALF an hour before the coach left for Maidstone, winger Len Worley rang team manager Barry Darvill to say he had a cold and could not play. Therefore Wycombe could only take 11 players and forfeited a substitute.

This could well have proved their undoing, for the game was just 30 seconds old when Les Merrick received a nasty crack on the ankle and had to undergo lengthy attention on the field before the game was resumed.

And Wycombe would not have found it quite so easy playing throughout with ten men. As it was, Maidstone, the weakest Isthmian League side I have seen this season, handed Wycombe the points on a platter. They were not a shadow of the side that beat Wanderers 2-0 over there last season.

Wycombe rarely were chivvied out of second gear and they were able to build up attacks with the ease of children playing with toy soldiers. Samuels and Horseman were allowed room to romp, and each bagged a couple of goals to boost their already impressive scoring statistics.

FIRST TWO

The first two came via Sammy's curly head after good moves involving Bates and Horseman. And Horseman himself smacked home two great opportunist goals, one each side of the breather, to give Wycombe complete superiority.

Had they wished they could have run into double figures and kept in the goal race with Sutton United who crushed Clapton 11-1. But they didn't seem interested after that. Wanderers were content to stroll around with the ball and the forwards always tried to set each other up with open goals when a first-time shot and a little more urgency could

well have produced more satisfactory results.

But who can moan at a team scoring a 4-0 win away from home? Maskell had little trouble in goal although he did fumble the ball a couple of times that could have proved dangerous. Vic Sherbourne came in at left back and once again did nothing wrong, and with the absence of Worley, Pete Roystone donned the number seven shirt and played a solid midfield role in a 3-3-4 set up.

This left four forwards, but at least it left four attacking forwards. It gave the attack a new look. Skipper Bates had a good game spraying a steady flow of pin-point passes across from the right leaving Samuels and Horseman as efficient strikers.

Barry Baker returned after injury and played as if he'd never been away.

On occasions, especially towards the end, the Wycombe defence was breached, but the shooting of the Kent forwards was so poor that I don't think they would have scored had they played until dark.

In fact on two occasions Micky Angel shot high and wide from right under the crossbar.

I can't see Wycombe having an easier win than this all season.